Dewan's reply.—Your suggestions are very ambitious. You want a special officer to prepare a scheme of town-planning for each town in the State. You want a set of schemes under which the several towns should expand in an orderly fashion. It would mean an officer for each Municipality, and Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, the Municipal Chairman of Alleppey, who, as all of you know, is an experienced man in that line, observes: "It would involve the creation of Town Improvement Trusts in all these Municipalities and would mean a good deal of expenditure which, in the present finances of the Municipalities and the Government, it would be rash to undertake." He also observes that a good deal of town-planning could be actually worked by the Municipalities themselves by enforcing the provisions of the Municipal Regulation, and making an earnest effort to see that people conform to the building bye-laws, a draft of which has been recently published in the Gazette. I have consulted the Chief Engineer on this question in another connection, and he has told me that any ordinary town-planning could be undertaken by one of the Engineers in the service of the State without special training, and if any Municipality wants the services of such an Engineer to formulate a modest scheme of town-planning, Government would be glad to lend the same to that Municipality. As regards the need for a complete and accurate survey of municipal towns, I quite agree with you; but you should know that the cost of such an elaborate cadastral survey is about Rs. 30,000 per square mile, and I think that this rules the proposition out. In British India also many towns have not had the benefit of such a survey owing to its prohibitive cost. Our present survey is good enough as a frame work. Only, the Municipalities should do their duty and see that people do not encroach on *poramboke* lands, such as markets and roads. The Municipalities and the Revenue Department should be very prompt in checking all such encroachments.

100. Suggestions for improving the sanitation of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. L. Kulathu Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah), after thanking Government for conferring on the Shencottah Municipality the privilege of electing a non-official President, spoke about the highly insanitary and unhealthy nature of the Shencottah town which was traced to the want of drains on either side of the roads, streets and lanes, the existence of the Perumalkulam with its stagnant pools of dirty water in the centre of the town, and the absence of good water for drinking and bathing purposes. The Member requested that the Perumalkulam with the lands under it be acquired, the tank filled up and the entire area converted into house sites to relieve the congestion. The difficulty experienced in the matter of drinking water in the town could not be removed solely by the sinking of a few more wells. Other remedial measures were also necessary for which a Committee should be appointed. The Municipality was without funds to cope with the situation; and the attitude of the Government in insisting on such wants being supplied by the Municipalities themselves, irrespective of their pecuniary circumstances, was not acceptable. The position of Government was that of a parent and guardian to its subjects and like a wise Hindu father settling on his grown-up son a separate home, the Government should first provide the Municipality with everything necessary for a start, viz., good drainage, good water and a healthy atmosphere and leave the maintenance work to the Municipalities. He, therefore, prayed that Government might take active steps to remove at an early date the natural disadvantages under which the Shencottah Municipality laboured.

Dewan's reply.—I have already given my reply on the question of municipal grants and the devolution of powers to Municipalities. I may add that the question of grants will come up for review at the time of the next budget and then it will also be considered by the new Legislative Council which will be essentially non-official in character. In regard to the tank which, you say, should be acquired and filled up, the matter has been referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner, and it is under his consideration. As soon as his reply is received, Government will do what is possible.

101. The policy of the Government in relation to Municipalities.

Mr. V. Parameswaran Tampi (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) began by expressing his gratification at the introduction of a large non-official majority

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